

## **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTION**

With a combined budget in excess of \$91 million, Housing and Community Services Section (HCSS) administers eight major program areas. Those programs include Community Services Block Grant, Section 8 Housing Assistance, Emergency Shelter Grants, Energy Assistance Program, Weatherization, the Emergency Feeding Assistance Program, Family Development Program and Domestic Violence Programs. Services under the majority of these programs are provided through local community and social services providers. Most grantees are Community Action Agencies (CAA), which cover all 92 counties. No one CAA covers more than six counties within its catchment area. Each agency must have its own independent board of directors of local citizens, which must represent public officials, private organizations, and the low-income individuals.

Other programs provided by these agencies include; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); Head Start, employment services to teens; access to medical services, senior nutrition sites, food banks, food pantries or soup kitchens, and housing programs, from rental assistance to home ownership programs with direct client counseling services. All approaches target the individual and/or family goal of attaining self-sufficiency.

The Housing and Community Services Section (HCSS) focuses on Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA). Roma is a method of setting goals and measuring them, in order to determine the effectiveness of client services and/or agency management. This process is a requirement of the 1998 CSBG Reauthorization Act.

There are three different forms of ROMA measures which are used. These include:

- ❖ Direct questions which address how many (persons, families, and agencies) achieved the end result.
- ❖ Survey questions that address how many feel their lives have been improved by the services provided.
- ❖ Scales that allow us to show movement from one threshold to another, in progressing toward an end result.

Besides CAA's, other social service providers may include shelter, missions, food banks, transitional living facilities, public housing authorities, and domestic violence service agencies.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

**Purpose of Program** - The Community Services Block Grant provides funds for various services and activities having a measurable and major impact on the causes of poverty. Community Action Agencies use these funds to initiate, supplement, and implement many local community action efforts. These projects include, but are not limited to: drug treatment, information/referral networks, nutritional assistance, education assistance, housing assistance, counseling, employment/training, and emergency assistance. Over 100 local, state, and federal programs utilize Community Services Block Grant funds within Indiana.

**Target Population** - Low-income families and individuals. Specific programs may target a smaller population, such as: elderly, families with children, or homeless persons.

**Agencies Providing Services** - The State of Indiana provides Community Services Block Grant funds to Community Action Agencies throughout Indiana. These agencies utilize their awards to provide many programs within their Indiana service areas.

**Eligibility Requirements** - Households with incomes at or below 125 percent of the poverty guidelines are eligible to receive benefits from programs funded by this grant.

**Start and End Date** - The program operates on a calendar year.

**Funding** - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - \$ 7,636,717.

## **HOUSING SERVICES - SECTION 8 HOUSING**

**Purpose of Program** - The purpose of this program is to provide Section 8 Rental Housing Assistance Certificate, Voucher and Moderate Rehabilitation Programs throughout Indiana. This program serves the very low income population. As funding becomes available, applicants are selected from a waiting list for rental assistance. Applicants are served according to date of application and local preferences. Clients select decent, safe and affordable rental housing. Housing and Community Services staff and subcontractors inspect all housing units, conduct rent reasonableness studies, prepare contracts and leases and negotiate rent levels with owners and landlords.

**Target Population** - Very low-income families and individuals.

**Agencies Providing Services** - The State of Indiana administers services to 82 counties throughout Indiana. Local service to clients is provided by Community Action Agencies and local Public Housing Authorities.

**Eligibility Requirements** – A family must have an income level at or below 50 percent of the median income set by federal guidelines. The amount of income is very low and varies between counties.

**Start and End Date** - This program continues throughout the year.

**Funding** - U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development - \$16,000,000.

## **EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT**

**Purpose of Program** - The Emergency Shelter Grant provides funds for basic operating expenses and homeless prevention expenses incurred by shelters, missions, and homeless service organizations. These funds are used to improve existing agencies which serve the homeless population by funding limited building renovations, and to purchase food, bedding, equipment, and clothing. Funds are also used to prevent homelessness through rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, and security deposits. Homeless persons are provided support services, such as education, housing placement, job training, child care, and clothing to aid them in their transition to self-sufficiency.

**Target Population** - Homeless persons or families and those who are in immediate danger of becoming homeless.

**Agencies Providing Services** - Shelters, missions, and homeless service organizations throughout Indiana.

**Eligibility Requirements** - This program is not income-based. An individual or family must be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

**Start and End Date** - This program operates on the State Fiscal Year, July 1 - June 30.

**Funding** - U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development - \$ 1,741,000.

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Purpose of Program** - The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded block grant program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. The LIHEAP of 1981, as amended, authorizes payments “to assist low-income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, primarily in meeting their immediate home energy needs”. In 1983, an Indiana statute was implemented which places a moratorium on the termination of residential electric or gas service for persons who are eligible for and have applied for energy assistance.

The Energy Assistance Program provides utility assistance benefits to maintain utility service for low-income households. In addition to financial benefits, the program provides services to EAP households. These services are in the form of information and referral to other programs or through services directly provided by the CAA. The direct services include home weatherization and case management.

**Target Population** – Benefits are targeted to low-income households. Benefit amounts are based on a household’s “energy burden”, that is the total household energy cost in ratio to its income level. In 1999, 97,234 households were provided a one-time benefit averaging \$253 on their annual heating bills. About 12% of those households received additional crisis benefits to prevent disconnection of their heat. An additional 31,266 cooling benefits were provided during the summer, to at-risk households. Also, 1,569 dwellings were weatherized using a set-aside of LIHEAP funds for that program.

**Agencies Providing Services** - Energy Assistance Program services and benefits are provided by contract with the 24 Community Action Agencies, which cover all 92 counties of the state.

**Eligibility Requirements** - Households with income at or below 150% of the established federal poverty guidelines are targeted for benefits. For example, a household of four may have an annual gross income up to and including \$25,575.

**Start and End Date** – The heating program runs from early November until the end of May, or until funds are depleted. In the summer, limited cooling funds are available from June 1 until September 30, or until funds are depleted.

<b>Funding (2001)</b> - U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services	\$28,160,606
U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services	10,689,510
Oil Overcharge Funds (Indiana)	<u>7,203,182</u>
	\$46,053,298

## WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Purpose of Program** - The Weatherization Assistance Program provides residential energy conservation services to the low income citizens of Indiana. Funding comes from Federal sources, and is allocated to Community Action Agencies to provide the services in each of Indiana's 92 counties. The 24 service providing agencies use their own crews or private contractors to provide comprehensive energy conservation services. A thorough evaluation of the structure, including the safe and efficient operation of the furnace and water heater, gas cooking stove, is included in the treatment of each home.

**Target Population** - Low-income individuals and families.

**Agencies Providing Services** - Community Action Agencies provide services to all 92 counties.

**Eligibility Requirements** - Households with incomes at or below 125 percent of the poverty guidelines are eligible to receive benefits from programs funded by this grant. Additionally, households who qualify and receive TANF, Supplemental Security Income, and/or Energy Assistance are categorically eligible for Weatherization Services.

**Start and End Date** - This program continues throughout the entire year.

<b>Funding -</b>	U.S. Dept. of Energy	* \$3,829,172
	WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	
	(WAP)	
	U.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN	** 4,877,953
	SERVICES	
	LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE	
	PROGRAM (LIHEAP)	
	OIL OVER CHARGE	<u>2,000,000</u>
	TOTAL	\$10,707,125

\* THE TOTAL DOE WAP ALLOCATION INCLUDES \$285,740 FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING (T&TA) OF WEATHERIZATION EMPLOYEES.

\*\* THE TOTAL LIHEAP ALLOCATION INCLUDES \$171,395 FOR T&TA. \$37,000 FOR CERTIFICATION OF WEATHERIZATION PERSONNEL. ADDITIONALLY, \$1,065,000 WAS ALLOCATED FOR WEATHERIZATION FROM THE LIHEAP 1999 EMERGENCY COOLING ALLOCATION..

## THE EMERGENCY FEEDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)

**Purpose of Program** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides commodities to more than 600 food outlets (food pantries and/or soup kitchens) throughout Indiana. These products, along with food items or other goods, provide prepared meals or food baskets to low income citizens. Depending upon availability, products may include: canned or frozen meat (beef, pork, or fish); fresh or canned fruit, canned vegetables, dehydrated soup and potatoes, pastas, fruit juices, various dry beans, sauces, instant milk, bakery mix, oil, and syrup.

Each year, the Consolidated Outreach Project (COP) provides 10,000 to 12,000 migrant and seasonal farm workers food from TEFAP and supplemental items from Gleaners Food Bank to 10 Migrant Food Pantries. These pantries are open at the convenience of the farm workers, enabling these clients to not miss work. Also, staff from COP work nights and weekends in order to ensure that Spanish speaking staff are available during the pantries' hours of operation.

**Target Population** - Low-income households and homeless individuals and families that are in need of food.

**Agencies Providing Services** - Commodities are provided to 17 Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFO) throughout Indiana. EFOs are Food Banks and/or Community Action Agencies. These agencies in turn distribute products to local food pantries and soup kitchens in their service areas that cover all 92 counties in Indiana.

**Eligibility Requirements** - Households with incomes at or below 125% percent of the poverty guidelines or in an emergency situation are eligible to receive products from the outlets. Food pantry clients must sign an eligibility certificate declaring eligibility. Soup kitchens provide meals to all persons who are hungry.

**Start and End Date** - This program continues throughout the entire year. Food is currently shipped three to four times a year to the EFOs for distribution to the outlets.

<b>Funding -</b>	U.S. Dept. of	
	Agriculture	\$762,857
	State of Indiana	<u>\$146,000</u>
	Match Total	\$908,856
		Administrative Funds

A minimum of 40% of the Administrative Funds must go to the EFOs.

<b>Food Value for</b>		
<b>Fiscal Year 99 –</b>	Entitlement	\$1,598,484
	Bonus	<u>1,478,196</u>
		\$3,071,794
<b>Total Program</b>		\$3,980,650

## **COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION**

**Purpose of Program** - The Community Food and Nutrition Grant provides for the sponsorship of statewide implementation of initiatives to assist unemployed and disadvantaged individuals. The program coordinates existing private and public food assistance resources to better serve the low-income populations. Activities may include education on food safety, safe storage, preparation, and on-site technical assistance.

**Target Population** – Soup kitchen and food pantry recipients, volunteers and staff.

**Agencies Providing Services** – Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

**Eligibility Requirements** - Not applicable.

**Start and End Date** – The project operates throughout the year.

**Funding** – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - \$76,460.

## **CONSOLIDATED OUTREACH PROJECT**

**Purpose of Program** - The Consolidated Outreach Project is a public/private sector effort among the Departments of Education and Workforce Development, the Family and Social Services Administration and Indiana Health Centers, Inc. to coordinate services for migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Bilingual case managers complete needs assessments, direct referrals to local service providers, and conduct follow-up reviews for all migrant and seasonal farmworker households. Comprehensive statistical data is also collected on each person assisted.

**Target Population** - Migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

**Agencies Providing Services** - Indiana Health Centers, Inc.

**Eligibility Requirements** - Individuals and families whose primary income is derived from employment in agriculture and who may or may not occupy temporary housing for the purpose of this employment.

**Start and End Date** - Migrant farmworkers are usually present during the growing season, April through October. Seasonal farmworkers and settled-out families receive assistance throughout the year.

<b>Funding -</b>	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (SSBG) -	\$150,203
	Indiana Dept. of Education -	30,000
	Indiana Dept. of Workforce Development -	30,000
	CSBG-D	<u>19,797</u>
	Total -	\$230,000

## **INTERIM ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

**Purpose of Program** - To assist eligible clients with payment of routine expenses (rent, utilities, prescription drugs, etc.) while they are awaiting approval from the Social Securities Administration regarding disability determination subsequent to receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Any assistance given to the client is repaid to the trustee from the client's first SSI check. These repaid trustee funds can then be given to another eligible client.

**Target Population** - Individuals applying for Supplemental Security Income.

**Agencies Providing Services** - Local township trustee offices in conjunction with Indiana Township Trustees Association.

**Eligibility Requirements** - Eligible clients must apply for Supplemental Security Income and meet income guidelines for trustee assistance.

**Start and End Date** - This program continues throughout the entire year.

**Funding** - Two percent of the reimbursement amount returned to the trustee is retained by DFC as a processing charge.

**Note** - All 1,008 township trustees are required to participate in this program.

## **RESIDENTIAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE CHALLENGE OPTION (REACH)**

**Purpose of Program** - The intent of this program is to facilitate the process of achieving financial independence for targeted families affected by welfare reform. Enhanced support will be offered by way of Community Action Agencies as an extension of the self-sufficiency services provided through the local Division of Family and Children offices.

**Target Population** - Current TANF recipients who are transitioning off public assistance within one year or whose assistance will end due to employment, recipients who are participating in job training, job search, or are employed, and have a history of high energy costs, overdue rent or utilities, or who frequently move.

**Agencies Providing Services** - Real Services, South Central Community Action Program, Inc., Dubois, Pike, Warrick E.O.C., Inc., and Community Action Program, Inc., of Western Indiana.

**Eligibility Requirements** - Participants must be at or below 150% of OMB guidelines and be within the target populations as stated above.

**Start and End Date** - April 1, 1998 through September 30, 2000.

**Funding** - US Department of Health and Human Services \$1,501,840.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

**Purpose of Program** - This service is for domestic violence victims and their children. Victims of domestic violence are those persons who have experienced or are in danger of experiencing abuse caused by a spouse, ex-spouse, or surrogate spouse. Services are intended to be short term in nature for emergency and crisis situations.

**Target Population** - Any person at least 18 years of age who is at risk of abuse either physical or emotional.

**Agencies Providing Services** - Domestic Violence Shelters or programs that provide services to victims of family violence.

**Eligibility Requirements** - None

**Start and End Date** - State Fiscal Year, July 1 – June 30.  
Federal Fiscal Year, October 1 – September 30

**Funding** – Social Services Block Grant, Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment, Federal Family Violence Prevention and Treatment Act.

## SEXUAL OFFENSE SERVICES

**Purpose of Program** - This program seeks to reduce rape and attempted rape of females aged 12 and older and reduce the incidence of maltreatment of children younger than age 18 by providing education, sex offense resource materials, training on child maltreatment, and developing a comprehensive system of sex offense services statewide.

**Target Population** - Indiana Females

**Agencies Providing Services** - Shelters and other Social Services Agencies, especially Rape Crisis Programs.

**Eligibility Requirements** - None

**Start and End Date** - October 1 – September 30.

**Funding** – Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.